

## THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE SAYS GOD MAKES YOU GOOD NOT YOU OR DOES IT?

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:

I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

He declares that he was the worst of the apostles because of the terrible things he did in the past. But he said that he now worked harder than the others and stated that it was really God that was doing the work through supplying him with supernatural aid. Is he saying God gave him more help? Is he saying the others did not co-operate or use the grace enough? Or is he saying that whether you work hard or not it does not matter for God is still doing what God does best and has a surprising and unpredictable plan. Not a single one of these options is acceptable or even praiseworthy. To say God helps you more than others is to make out you are special and better than them. To say others do not co-operate with God is judgemental. It opposes the fact that belief in God should not harm or insult people. People come first. To say it is okay if you do a lot of good or none for it is all God anyway is fanatical and dangerous.